

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 04485 090758Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00
OIC-02 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00
CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08
EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01
OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /191 W
-----000116 090858Z /21

P R 090627Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3495
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4485

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: XV, TGEN, EFIS, AS
SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 142980

1. AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL, EMBOFF PRESENTED AIDE MEMOIRE TO
PETER TIMMINS, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INTERNATIONAL LEGAL
BRANCH, DFAWPG SIMMINS WELCOMED RECEIPT OFIYESSAGE AND SAID
THAT ALTHOUGH DFA HAD SO FAR BEEN DEVOTING MOST OF ITS
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ATTENTION TO TEXT OF CONVENTION ITSELF, IT FULLY APPRECIATED
IMPORTANCE OF DECIDING ON INTERIM MEASURES AND WOULD FOCUS ON
QUESTION IN DEPTH BEFORE JULY MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES.

2. ON QUESTIONS OF TEXT, TIMMINS SAID THAT DFA WOULD LIKE TO
HAVE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE U.S. SIDE WELL BEFORE
BUENOS AIRES, EITHER WITH THE EMBASSY IN CANBERRA OR DIRECTLY

WITH THE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, AS IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO SEND EXPERTS TO WASHINGTON BEFORE THE MEETING. IT WAS AGREED THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE BETTER TO HOLD THESE DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON. TIMMINS SAID THAT THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WOULD BE CONTACTING THE DEPARTMENT SHORTLY.

3. TIMMINS SAID GOA HAD ALREADY HAD TALKS WITH THE POLES AND THE SOVIETS (AMBASSADOR K. BRENNAN IN BOTH CASES) AND THE JAPANESE (M. MCKEOWN ON HIS WAY HOME TO CANBERRA FROM GENEVA) AND THAT AMBASSADOR BRENNAN SHORTLY WOULD BE HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FRENCH. DFA HAD DETERMINED THAT THESE COUNTRIES HAD HAD THE "MOST DIFFICULTY" WITH THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE AND IT HAD THUS BEEN DECIDED TO GIVE THEM A "FULLER PRESENTATION" OF AUSTRALIAN THINKING ON THE MATTER. HE DESCRIBED THE TALKS AS "USEFUL."

4. TIMMINS SAID THAT EVERYONE WITH WHOM THEY HAD TALKED HAD BEEN GIVING A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT TO THE DRAFT CONVENTION AND SEEMED IN GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE ROOM FOR SHIFTS AND CHANGES.

5. TIMMINS ADDED THAT DFA SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT WITH NON-ENGLISH SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR IN BUENOS AIRES IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO KEEP THE SAME MOMENTUM THAT HAD EXISTED IN CANBERRA. HE SAID THAT FOR THIS REASON THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE
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LOGIC IN THE SOVIET FEELING THAT PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO ADOPT THE CONCEPT OF NEW "CHAIRMAN'S DRAFTS" IN BUENOS AIRES, BUT RATHER TO ADOPT THE CONCEPT OF NEGOTIATING GROUPS. HE ADMITTED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE OF COURSE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT WITH ANOTHER CLAIMANT IN THE CHAIR THE CHAIRMAN'S DRAFT CONCEPT MIGHT NOT BE DESIRABLE FROM THE NON-CLAIMANTS' POINT OF VIEW.
SQUIRE

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